

COMMENTARY

LIBERTARIANISM



People act on the basis of their strongest convictions. And today, many young adults have a jaundiced view of private capitalism. They correctly identify the injustice, sterility, ignorance, and hypocrisy which have helped to produce today's violence-ridden society. But they lay the blame upon an economic system which has long since been victimized and vitiated by economically inept, politically adept power wielders.

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WHAT IS A LIBERTARIAN?

by Robert LeFevre

What has been called the "Age of Aquarius" is an age of revolution.
The revolution has burst upon us and is world wide in scope, involving
every nation, race, political faction, and ethnic group.

Perhaps few beyond the age of thirty would have participated in
starting this revolt, but no combination of groups of any age can stop
it. It will run its course.

It is a struggle involving the emergence of a new morality — the
dawning of a new universal concept of right and wrong.

In spite of the many regrettable happenings thus far, there is one
overriding fact to be considered. Those in revolt want a better world.
They are unwilling to accept the double standard of the governmentally
dominated status quo. Many of them appear willing to accept the idea
and the ideal of private property. And they oppose the view that private
property can exist only in cultures that are war based.

They accept the merit and worth of the individual, and they will
rejoice in any system that can be devised which will insure the dignity

of the individual and his opportunity to express himself. They reject censorship for any reason. They protest laws that attempt to implement some particular life style. They rebel at any kind of enforcement against self-chosen food, clothing, or shelter. And they resist conformity to some collectivized norm.

The line of demarcation between the existing culture and the future is being drawn. The line does not follow the normally accepted political schisms. The revolution is not a conservative rebellion against the liberal establishment, nor a liberal revolt against the conservative establishment. Instead, both liberal and conservative factions are being shattered and repolarized. There are now emerging a *libertarian* element and an *authoritarian* element. Those seeking to bring in the new morality, base their concepts on the rights of men as individuals. Those seeking to defeat the revolution, or to sidetrack it, hope to retain power by upholding the concept of group morality.

Thus, the authoritarians will rely on government and insist that virtue resides in nationalism, obedience to the existing power complex, and the subservience of the individual to the benefit of the masses. The libertarians, on the contrary, espouse individual virtue, deny the right of the nation or the power complex to control or dominate their lives, and challenge increasingly every effort made to constrain them and force them into the previously acceptable molds.

Libertarians accept and support the revolution. They adhere to the concepts of the rights of men as individuals. Men are not resources to be maneuvered and exploited by government decree.

Libertarians accept and support the value and virtue of private life and private property.

Libertarians believe in and sustain the dignity of man. To that end, they welcome those who wish to see changes made in these directions, regardless of their liberal or conservative backgrounds and whatever their major interest may be at any given moment.

There is one important qualification. Libertarians will not sanction violence, exerted either by the state or by mobs. And they do not believe that the existing establishment can be utilized to effect the changes sought. Therefore, libertarians will not lend themselves to political aim or ambition. Our purpose is human liberty. Our method is peaceful understanding to the end that the rifts in our culture can be bridged by the overarching view of man as a creature who seeks the good.



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